

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

C2-00-2174

**ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO JUVENILE
COURT RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CHILDREN'S
JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

JAN 03 2001

FILED

The Children's Justice Initiative is a juvenile court improvement project designed to implement the practices and procedures recommended in the *Resource Guidelines: Improved Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges;

Twelve counties are participating in the Children's Justice Initiative on a pilot project basis: Carver, Ramsey, Olmsted, Hennepin, Faribault, St. Louis, Stearns, Otter Tail, Chippewa, Crow Wing, Kanabec, and Washington.

As part of the Children's Justice Initiative, personnel from State Court Administration and the Minnesota Department of Human Services will conduct a case management review of each pilot project county's existing juvenile court practices and procedures;

State Court Administration has contracted with the National Center for Juvenile Justice to conduct the case management review in Ramsey County;

In each of the twelve pilot project counties personnel from State Court Administration, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the National Center for Juvenile Justice require access to juvenile court records and proceedings that contain sensitive, confidential information;

The National Center for Juvenile Justice has agreed in writing not to disclose to any third party any information in any juvenile court records and proceedings from which the identity of any individual, or other characteristic that could uniquely identify any individual, is ascertainable; and

Sound public policy, reflected in Minnesota Statutes § 13.05, subdivision 7, supports disclosure of the pilot project counties' juvenile court records and proceedings to State Court Administration personnel and the National Center for Juvenile Justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch, and by virtue of and under the inherent power and statutory authority of the Minnesota Supreme Court to regulate public access to records maintained by the judicial branch, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The National Center for Juvenile Justice is granted access to the juvenile court records and proceedings of the Children's Justice Initiative pilot project counties subject to the conditions set forth in state contract number A16257 between the State Court Administrator and the National Center for Juvenile Justice.
2. Personnel from State Court Administration and the Minnesota Department of Human Services are granted access to the juvenile court records and proceedings of the Children's Justice Initiative pilot project counties.
3. It shall not be a violation of this Order for a district court judge in any of the participating pilot project counties to deny personnel from State Court Administration, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, or the National Center for Juvenile Justice access to any particular juvenile court record or proceeding on a case-by-case or record-by-record basis.

Dated: December 20, 2000

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen A. Blatz
Chief Justice